ICARC NEWSLETTER

Nov. 29 2024

Officers for 2024:
President – Craig Bigler, AB3XA
Vice President - Dylon Curtis KC3WMN
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Chris Edwards, N3VFK

Additional Board Members for 2024
1. John Kalicicki KA2YOS
2. David Steiner W3CDH
3. Phil Kopczyk K3PJ
4. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG
6. Larry Freeman N3LT

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! December 3rd Meeting of ICARC: Club Officers are to be elected. Please Think about running and serving our club! It is an important meeting so please try to be there. Your input is essential.

Net control operators are needed! Currently, Phil, Chris, and Stuart are the only net control operators. We thank you fellows very much; but we need others to share the joy!

On Saturday, November 30 , There are plans for a "hot dog picnic/social" event at ICARC's remote site on Rhine Road. It will start around 4:00 pm. As always, bring you favorite soft drinks and any special food that you require. There will be water and hotdogs and a camp fire. There can be be a radio setup for those who want to do some RF playing. It is planned for later in the day than usual in order to give those who have never been to the remote site during the dark of the evening to see the beautiful sky at night. That of course assumes the weather is good. **Special Note: There could be a change to an earlier time of day or cancellation if the weather is not cooperative, meaning a prediction of rain snow or overcast skys. One of the objective is to let new folks see the spectacular sky view from the site and obviously clouds will prevent that from happening. I will send out an update during the evening of Friday, Nov. 29 affirming the event or noting any changes.**

Other events of Interest:

Some of you running FT8-FT4 on HF will be interested in this from the ARRL Contest Update Newsletter:

FT Challenge Debuts on December 7 - 8

The first FT Challenge will take place on December 7 – 8, 2024, and replaces the FT Roundup that ran from

2018 – 2023. This new contest uses the standard FT* exchange of grid square and signal report. Because the exchange is identical, contesters and non-contesters can contact any station they decode without concern of whether they are "in the contest" or not.

The scoring is distance-based which is similar to the World Wide Digi DX Contest where one base QSO point is earned for each contact, and distance points are added for each 3,000 kilometers. Multipliers are 2-character grid fields, which count once per band. Stations can be contacted once per band, regardless of whether FT4 or FT8 is used.

Complete rules are posted at the FT Challenge website at www.rttycontesting.com/ft-challenge <https://arrl.informz.net/z/cjUucD9taT0zMTkzODUzJnA9MSZ1PTUyMDMzNzUyMiZsaT0zNTk1ODc0Mw/index.html>.

–/Thanks to Ed Muns, W0YK/

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading? Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Below are websites where you can look into testing online.
https://wm7x.net/ One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.
https://kl7aa.org/vec/remote-testing/
https://hamstudy.org/sessions/remote Lists remote and in person test sessions.

Reminder: ICARC membership renewal time is upon us at the end of December. See final page of this document for a renewal/application form. This form can also be found online at: http://www.qsl.net/w3bmd

Reminder: The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.91/146.31 Mhz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club). In recent weeks it has also been repeated at approximately 8:45 PM on the new N3FLO repeater on 146.655/.055, tone of 131.8 Hz. Check it out.

Reminder: The ICARC meetings are scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month; next meeting is December 3, 2024 the Indiana Eat n' Park restaurant in the backroom at 6:30 PM. Hope to see you there. Also, in the same room, there is usually an informal breakfast each Saturday morning starting around 08:30 am. Come and join in the comaraderie, it's great fun.

Other Announcements of potential interest:
The ARRL Grant submitted by ICARC earlier this year is currently being reviewed and results will be provided by the end of November, 2024.

From the ARRL WEB Site: Grants to Amateur Radio Organizations: The ARRL Foundation grants program awards limited funding to organizations for eligible amateur radio related projects and initiatives, particularly those with a focus on educating, licensing, and supporting Amateur Radio activities. Youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged. The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model three times a year.

2025 Grant proposals are accepted from:

- February 1 - February 28
- June 1 - June 30
- October 1 - October 31

Attention: If other ICARC members would like to contribute to this Newsletter, please contact or submit articles to the Newsletter editor, N3LT via email at n3lt@arrl.net or wd4hoz@gmail.com by the middle of each month. Preferred document format is **.doc, for editing purposes.**. All submissions are subject to approval for publication by the editor.

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application

CURRENT DATE (M/D/Y): / / Membership Status(I,A,S,F): New_____ Ongoing_____

Individual Membership (I) — $35.00 **Associate/Student Membership (A, S) —** $20.00
Family Membership (F) – $50.00 {Two voting members per family}

***** Please complete the applicable information below: *****

Name:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class:_____ARRL:____FISTS:____ARES:___RACES:___

Other:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call:_____ Class:_____ ARRL:___FISTS:____ARES:____RACES:___

Other:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call:_____ Class:_____ARRL:___FISTS:____ARES:____RACES:___

Address: _____City:_____ St:_____Zip:_____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____Other Email: _____

Do you belong to A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S. of another County, if so which one: _____

Is it OK to put your name onto the R.A.C.E.S / A.R.E.S. emergency call list? Yes___ No___

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes_____ No_____

Signature_____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a check or money order payable to ICARC, to:

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2020
Indiana, PA 15701

Date Received _____ Amount $_____ (Cash) (Check) (MO) Number _____

The club info & newsletter is available on our web site at: www.qsl.net/w3bmd